

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
6 November 2000

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2001 regular session

**Quadrennial reports, 1996-1999 submitted through the
Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social
Council resolution 1996/31**

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
1. Academic Council on the United Nations System	2
2. Association for the Prevention of Torture	5
3. Centre for Social Research	7
4. International Association of Penal Law	9
5. Mahila Dakshta Samiti	12
6. Word of Life Christian Fellowship	13
7. Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action	15

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent *within one week of the date of this document* to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.



1. Academic Council on the United Nations System

(General consultative status granted in 1996)

The Academic Council on the United Nations (ACUNS), now headquartered at Yale University, was first created in 1987 at Dartmouth College as an international association of scholars, teachers, practitioners and others active in the work and study of the United Nations system and international organizations in general. The members share an interest in encouraging and supporting education, writing and research that promotes global cooperation, and that contributes to the understanding of the United Nations and international issues.

Membership

Over the past four years, individual membership in ACUNS has remained steady, averaging 900 members per year. Institutional membership varied from 41 to 46 institutions per year. The international membership comprised 45.7 per cent of the total membership from July 1996 to June 1997, 48 per cent from July 1997 to June 1998, 52 per cent from July 1998 to June 1999 and 52 per cent from July 1999 to June 2000. Student membership accounted for 24.8 per cent in 1996/97, 28.4 per cent in 1997/98, 22 per cent in 1998/99 and 25 per cent of the total membership in 1999/00. The renewal rate was 85 per cent in 1996/97, 80 per cent in 1997/98, 76 per cent in 1998/99 and 79 per cent in 1999/00. A geographical breakdown of the membership for all four years follows in the table below.

Location	1996-1997 Members		1997-1998 Members		1998-1999 Members		1999-2000 Members	
	Individual %*	Institutions %	Individual %*	Institutions %	Individual %*	Institutions %	Individual %*	Institutions %
Canada	80/8.8	3/6.5	81/9.3	2/4.9	81/9.4	2/4.4	76/8.7	3/6.1
Mexico	10/1.1	0/0	8/0.9	0/0	14/1.6	2/4.4	16/1.8	3/6.1
United States	495/54.3	27/58.7	451/52.0	23/56.1	418/48.4	25/55.6	422/48.3	25/51.00
Africa	11/1.2	0/0	11/1.3	0/0	17/2.0	1/2.2	16/1.8	1/2.05
The Americas and Caribbean	21/2.3	1/2.2	21/2.4	1/2.4	24/2.8	1/2.2	29/3.3	1/2.05
Middle East					7/0.8	0/0	5/0.6	0/0
Central/South Asia	7/0.8	0/0	10/1.2		3/2.0	0/0	6/0.7	0/0
East Asia	71/7.7**	3/6.5**	64/7.4**	3/7.3**	39/4.6	1/2.2	42/4.8	1/2.05
South-east Asia, Australia					17/2.0	0/0	18/2.1	0/0
Eastern/Central Europe	9/1.0	1/2.2	10/1.2	1/2.4	3/0.3	1/2.2	15/1.7	1/2.05
Western Europe	208/22.8	11/23.9	211/24.3	11/26.9	240/27.8	12/27.8	229/26.2	14/28.6
Total	912/100.0	46/100.0	867/100.0	41/100.0	863/100.0	45/100.0	874/100.0	49/100.0

* Individual members count includes institutional representatives.

** This statistic includes Asia, the Pacific and Australia.

Funding

From 1996 to 2000, funding sources have included the Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the United Nations University, and earned income through membership dues and publication sales. In 1998/99, the organization's core funding grant from the Ford Foundation was transferred from Brown University to Yale University, providing the new secretariat with funding to administer core programmes, projects and publications.

Relationship with the United Nations Secretariat

The Academic Council continues to maintain strong relations with several departments of the United Nations Secretariat, including the Office of the Secretary-General (Kofi Annan is a long-standing ACUNS member), the United Nations University, the substantive Departments of Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian Affairs and Political Affairs, and the Training Service of the Office of Human Resources Management. The Academic Council is an NGO affiliate of the Department of Public Information and has consultative status with Economic and Social Council.

Programmes and governance

Annual Meeting

Over 120 scholars, practitioners and graduate students attend this two-day conference. The Annual Meeting's format consists of plenary sessions, followed by smaller panel discussions, which include the participation of United Nations staff members. The conference traditionally hosts the John W. Holmes Memorial Lecture; the lecture is one in a series of lectures on international organization delivered at the Annual Meeting in honour of a distinguished Canadian diplomat-scholar and founding member of ACUNS. The Academic Council's Board of Directors and Executive meetings are held at the Annual Meeting as well. Conferences have been held consecutively from 1996 to 2000 in Turin, Italy, San José, Cornwallis, Nova Scotia (Canada), New York and Oslo. The Twelfth Annual Meeting was held at United Nations Headquarters, organized in cooperation with the United Nations Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for External Relations.

The ACUNS/ASIL summer workshop

The purposes of the workshop are to encourage new directions in international organizations and related legal studies, establish and strengthen contact among legal and international relations scholars and United Nations staff, and stimulate teaching and research in these subjects. The summer workshop selects 20-25 participants on a competitive basis; five of those selected are United Nations staff members, pre-selected separately by the United Nations. The workshop consists of presentations by and interactions with experts in the field, exercises and discussions focusing on developing greater links between academics and practitioners, skills development in teaching, research and writing on international organization and participant presentations.

Dissertation awards

In an effort to invest in the next generation of scholars, ACUNS, with financial support from the Ford Foundation, established a competitive awards programme for one or two social scientists or the equivalent number of legal scholars. The \$10,000 stipend is awarded to individuals in their final stage of writing dissertations related to institutional issues of the United Nations system.

Global Governance: A Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations

Winner of the Association of American Publishers Award for "Best New Journal 1996", *Global Governance* is a refereed academic journal, published by Lynne Rienner Publishers and distributed to ACUNS members as part of their membership. It is a joint undertaking of the Academic Council and the United Nations University.

"Brown Bag" series

ACUNS has initiated an informal series of "brown bag" lunch discussions held at the United Nations in the Department of Political Affairs working with Jehangir Khan, Alfred Stephen (federalism), Ruth Wedgwood (International Criminal Court), Priscilla Hayner (truth commissions), Susan Cook (Cambodian genocide programme) and Peter Wallensteen (global conflict) are some speakers who have participated in this series.

Internet service and listserver

ACUNS maintains a World Wide Web page containing valuable links to topical sites and documents of interest to ACUNS members, as well as updated information about ongoing future ACUNS programmes, projects and publications. ACUNS also co-sponsors a listserver discussion group with the International Organization Section of the International Studies Association (ISA).

ACUNS-Yale University research seminars

In October 1998, the Kempf Fund of Yale University in conjunction with United Nations Studies at Yale generously co-sponsored an ACUNS conference on "UN responses to insecurity". In March 2000, the second of the Kempf Fund-sponsored conferences was held in conjunction with the Yale Law School and entitled "Rebuilding societies in transition".

Liaison activities

The United Nations University (UNU) and the Secretariat maintain their relationship in connection with *Global Governance* and has negotiated funding from UNU in support of five younger scholars from developing countries to participate in the ACUNS Annual Meetings.

The International Studies Association (ISA), in particular its International Organization (IO) and International Law (IL) sections, has collaborated with ACUNS on a large number of projects by co-sponsoring receptions at the Annual Meetings in addition to maintaining the ACUNS-IO listserver, which now has more than 400 subscribers. Furthermore, Thomas G. Weiss, former Executive Director of ACUNS, has been elected President of the International Organization Section of ISA

and Craig Murphy, co-editor of *Global Governance*, is now President of ISA. Thus, ACUNS has continued its strong ties with ISA.

The American Society of International Law (ASIL) and ACUNS maintain regular contact throughout the year, especially with regard to the summer workshops they co-sponsor. From July 1998 to 2000, ASIL Executive Director Charlotte Ku took on the role of Chair of the ACUNS Board of Directors. ASIL has been helpful in assisting ACUNS to grow through its extensive network of legal scholars. Charlotte Ku continues to serve as past Chair on the ACUNS Board of Directors during 2000/01.

The Ralph Bunche Institute on the United Nations of the City University of New York, directed by Benjamin Rivlin, with the assistance of Nancy Okada continues to be helpful to ACUNS as the New York Liaison Office for ACUNS.

New partnerships have been established with Nihon Kokuren Gakkai, the Korean United Nations Studies Organization, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), the University of the Americas-Puebla, the University of Warwick and the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA).

2. Association for the Prevention of Torture

(Special consultative status granted in 1996)

The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) is an international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland. Founded in 1977, its mandate is the prevention of torture and ill-treatment. In this context, it seeks to ensure respect for the international norms prohibiting torture and to reinforce the means for preventing ill-treatment. APT runs five programmes: United Nations, Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia. APT focuses on monitoring the implementation of the various international and regional standards, the elaboration of new international legal texts and codes of conduct, and the training of governmental and non-governmental organs active in or related to the efforts to prohibit torture. As a membership organization governed by the Swiss laws on association, APT holds annually one General Assembly and two regular Board meetings, and monthly Bureau meetings. APT has members in 33 countries and an international staff of 10 different nationalities. APT is funded mainly by private donors, financial institutions and the Governments of Denmark, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway and the United Kingdom. It also has a special funding project called "Artists against torture".

APT has regularly followed and participated in the sessions of the Third Committee of the General Assembly (1998, 1999) and of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (CHR) (1996-1999). In 1998, APT participated in the Third Committee dialogue between States and NGOs concerning the follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA) adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights. At the CHR sessions, APT has published position papers (1996-1999) and has made oral interventions (1996-1999). In addition, APT has attended and followed closely the work of the United Nations Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (formerly the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities) (1996-1999) as well as

the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna (1998). At all of these meetings, APT conducted dialogues with United Nations officials, government delegations and other NGOs concerning the prevention of torture. Particularly in the Commission on Human Rights, APT participated quite actively by suggesting language for resolutions and monitoring the negotiations of the relevant resolutions.

One principal focus of APT is the proceedings of the Commission's working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1996-1999), in which it is deeply involved as facilitator and legal expert. For this particular working group, APT has continued to conduct legal research on international issues relevant to the discussions in the working group, to produce relevant papers and to conduct workshops (1997-1999) for diplomats and NGOs.

APT also cooperated closely with other United Nations bodies. APT follows and cooperates closely with two United Nations treaty bodies: the Human Rights Committee monitoring the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Committee against Torture under the Convention against Torture. APT regularly monitors the meeting of Chairpersons of the treaty bodies (1996-1999) and cooperates with the secretariats of the treaty bodies concerning access to information. With regard to the special procedures established by the Commission on Human Rights, APT cooperates with the Special Rapporteur on torture, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial arbitrary or summary executions and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. APT was actively involved in the review of mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights (1998, 1999) and attends the annual meetings of special rapporteurs and special representatives.

Other relevant activities of APT are:

(a) Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions. APT has closely followed the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1996, 1997), and worked towards the establishment of a special procedure of the Commission on that topic (1998, 1999). Since 1997, APT has put major effort into the conduct of a ratification campaign for the Convention against Torture;

(b) Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat. APT has collaborated with officials of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights; the Director of the OHCHR New York office; the heads of the respective Branches of OHCHR; the relevant desk officers responsible for the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights; the secretariats of the Commission on Human Rights, the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture;

(c) Preparation of papers. In response to the need for legal papers related to the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture, APT has produced and disseminated approximately 400 information packs every

year, which are used by government and NGO delegations at the annual sessions of the working group;

(d) APT has contributed to the elaboration of the draft guidelines on reparation for victims of violations of human rights (1996-1998); it has worked towards the creation of the International Criminal Court (1997, 1998) and participated in the Rome Conference (1998). It has participated in a number of seminars conducted by OHCHR, such as the seminar on indicators of civil and political rights (1999). It has sponsored an expert seminar (1999) which brought together experts in the fields of disarmament and human rights. It has participated in the elaboration of the "Istanbul Protocol" and "Istanbul Principles" (1998) and a handbook on reporting cases of torture (1999). Last but not least, APT, with five other NGOs, participated in the United Nations Day in Support of Victims of Torture (1998, 1999) by sponsoring seminars on impunity (with the United Nations Special Rapporteur) and conducting information campaigns on the commemoration of this particular day.

3. Centre for Social Research

(Special consultative status granted in 1996)

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Centre for Social Research is one of the leading women's institutions working in the field of social action since 1983. It aims towards making women empowered and self-reliant individuals, conscious of their rights. The Centre is devoted to the objective of restructuring the existing gender relations for the empowerment of women, particularly through:

- Mobilization of women, for participation in social action programmes;
- Enhancement of their awareness, skills, productivity and social acceptance;
- Removal of socio-cultural discrimination, isolation and alienation;
- Eradication of sexism, gender inequalities and the feminization of poverty;
- Ensuring a conducive bio-social environment for their creative development;
- Extending and ensuring the socio-economic autonomy of the rural underprivileged in general and women in particular;
- Promoting use of training and capacity-building for a gender-balanced social order.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

The Executive Director attended the forty-third session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, held from 1 to 9 March at New York.

The Executive Director and two representatives of the organization attended the Second Congress of the Global Network of Women in Politics, whose theme was "From rhetoric to reality: women's political participation, accountability and leadership" held in the Philippines from 28 to 30 August 1998;

The Executive Director and one representative of the organization attended the Conference on Women in Politics held in Fiji in November 1998;

The Executive Director attended the South Asia Coordination Committee Conference on Women in Politics organized by the Sri Lanka Chapter in Colombo on 30 April 1998.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Our organization was one of the key members of the Task Force for Women 2000 formed by UNIFEM India in preparation for the Five-year review by the General Assembly of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing +5). Our director and a representative took active part in all the meetings organized by the Task Force and contributed to the India NGO Alternative report.

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

We are one of the lead organizations in campaigning and lobbying for the political empowerment of women (seventh critical area of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action). In pursuance of the Platform, we held meetings at the regional, national and grass-roots levels to disseminate information and build a coalition known as the Joint Action Front for Women, comprising women's organizations and individuals from all sections of the society. Our Executive Director is the coordinator of the Front. At the regional level, our organization is the secretariat of the South Asia Network for Women in Politics. At the international level, our Director is one of the vice-presidents of the Centre for Asia Pacific Women in Politics.

Our organization is running a major programme on violence against women, which is the fourth critical area of concern identified by the Beijing Platform for Action.

We conduct education and training programmes for adolescent girls, the second most critical area of concern of the Platform for Action.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

These activities included:

(a) Hosting a number of discussions and the South Asia Consultation at Geneva in conjunction with the Centre for South Asia Studies during the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (1996-1999);

(b) Meetings at the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva with Dr. Gopinath, Director, and Mr. J. M. Servenis, Team Leader of the Task Force on Industrial Relations;

(c) Discussion with Mr. Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General, to brief him on developments in the women's movement in India (1999).

Preparation of papers and/or other material at the request of the Economic and Social Council and/or its subsidiary bodies or of the United Nations Secretariat

We contributed a chapter on informal sector labour and women for the *World Labour Report* in 1997.

Financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations, field-level collaboration, joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars, studies, etc.

Our organization has carried out research and development and training programmes for the United Nations Fund for Women, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Commonwealth Secretariat and others. In addition, it:

- (a) Contributed to and participated in commemoration of International Women's Day (8 March) organized by the Department of Public Information;
- (b) Participated in all major United Nations programmes at the UNDP Regional Office at Delhi;
- (c) Invited UNDP Resident Representative Ms. Brenda Macsweeny to our seminar in Delhi;
- (d) Received Mr. R. Sudarshan, Senior Economist, UNDP, who visited our organization for consultations on a project for strengthening the Government-citizen connection for the effective governance of local bodies.

4. International Association of Penal Law

(Special consultative status granted in 1952)

Introduction

The International Association of Penal Law (IAPL) was founded in 1924 as a successor to the *International Kriminologische Vereinigung*, which had been established in 1889. The Association is a scientific institution guided in its work by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Throughout its existence, IAPL has established and maintained a strong collaboration and partnership with the United Nations and its bodies and specialized agencies.

This report covers the activities implemented by IAPL — also through the work of the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences (IIHSCS), established by IAPL in 1972 to function as its programme implementation facility — during the period 1996-1999 that represent a specific contribution to the work of the United Nations.

The scientific contribution of IAPL activities to the United Nations is embodied in the impressive list of publications issued by the Association through the *International Review of Penal Law* and the *Nouvelles études pénales*, which both have worldwide dissemination. During the period under examination, the vast majority of IAPL publications have dealt with such United Nations-related issues as the International Criminal Court (four publications), impunity, protection of human rights, post-conflict justice and organized crime (seven publications). In particular, the proceedings of the meetings on the International Criminal Court were distributed

to all Permanent Missions to the United Nations, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Justice all over the world.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

During the period under consideration, IAPL participated in several international congresses, conferences and meetings. With particular reference to United Nations meetings, IAPL representatives attended, inter alia, annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, 1996-1999), the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, 1996-1999) and the Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (Rome, 1998). The IAPL President chaired the Drafting Committee of the Conference and was Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (New York, 1997-1999), and also chaired the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Vienna, 1999).

During the biennium 1998-1999, the President of the Association was appointed by the Commission on Human Rights to serve as the independent expert on the right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Furthermore, on the occasion of most United Nations and other international meetings, IAPL representatives were invited to lecture, act as resource persons, submit studies or papers or contribute with their substantive knowledge and expertise.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Activities in support of the establishment of the International Criminal Court

The Association's work in the creation of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has been essential and has continued, for the very idea of an international criminal jurisdiction and relevant machinery to prosecute and adjudicate international crimes and violations of human rights was conceived and cultivated within the IAPL framework.

During the period 1997-1999, IAPL organized three inter-sessional meetings of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (29 May-4 June and 16-22 November 1997 and 22-26 June 1999), in cooperation with the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations. In preparation for the Diplomatic Conference, IAPL also organized an informal meeting of the Bureau (4-8 May 1998) attended by the Presidents-designate, the General Rapporteur, the United Nations Secretariat (Office of Legal Affairs and Executive Office of the Secretary-General) and experts involved in the establishment of the ICC.

International criminal law

In cooperation with the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the United Nations Secretariat (CICP), IAPL organized an international conference on "Systems of comparative criminal justice" (16-20 December 1997), addressing such important issues of international criminal law as the harmonization of different national legal systems and legislation.

A major contribution to the work of the United Nations has been provided by IAPL with the organization of the XVII International Congress of Penal Law (Budapest, 5-11 September 1999), entitled "The criminal justice systems facing the challenge of organized crime". The Congress had been preceded by four preparatory colloquia where the subject matter was studied from the different perspectives of criminal law and procedure (18-20 September 1997, Naples, Italy; 13-17 October 1997, Guadalajara, Mexico; 8-12 November 1997, Alexandria, Egypt; 13-17 May 1998, Utrecht, the Netherlands); the proceedings appeared in four issues of the *International Review of Penal Law*. Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that the topic of the Congress is one of the priority areas of the United Nations, the relevant Secretariat body, the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP), although repeatedly invited to play a major role in the preparation and implementation of the Congress, elected not to participate in or contribute to it, which was noted and severely criticized by the 3,000 government officials and independent experts attending the Congress in a final recommendation addressed to the Secretary-General.

Technical assistance to developing countries and countries in transition

Most of the activities mentioned above had a direct effect upon technical assistance and cooperation programmes implemented by IAPL in cooperation with offices and bodies of the United Nations and specialized agencies and geared towards assisting developing countries, particularly African and Arab States, as well as Central and Eastern European countries. These programmes addressed such areas as the strengthening of and respect for human rights within the criminal justice systems, international cooperation in criminal matters, including extradition and mutual legal assistance, the fight against organized crime and its transnational manifestations, good governance and the rule of law, and support in connection with the International Criminal Court.

Consultation and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

IAPL maintains a close and fruitful collaborative relationship with colleagues within various units of the United Nations Secretariat. In particular, the work leading to the establishment of the International Criminal Court and that related to human rights protection has fostered cooperation with officials of the Office of Legal Affairs and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Regrettably, the consultative and cooperative process with officials serving with the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention has dramatically decreased since 1998, owing to a deliberate policy undertaken by the ODCCP management and in spite of the repeated requests for and offers of collaboration advanced by the Association.

This situation, which has been made known to the Secretary-General and other relevant bodies and organs, is detrimental not only to the United Nations as an institution but, most of all, to its constituency, particularly developing countries and countries in transition, which are denied the beneficial effects of programmes organized by IAPL in collaboration with the various United Nations offices based in Vienna, particularly the Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. Several other institutions, as well as members of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, have

expressed their concerns with regard to the decision by ODCCP to reduce its cooperation, or make it very selective, with long-standing partners, notwithstanding mandates and recommendations of the relevant United Nations policy-making bodies.

5. Mahila Dakshta Samiti

(Special consultative status granted in 1996)

The organization

Mahila Dakshta Samiti has blossomed into one of the leading national and international organizations since its inception in 1977. It is a non-profit, non-sectarian secular body of vigilant women committed to the establishment of a just, equitable and humane social order in which men and women will participate on an equal footing in a harmonious relationship. To this end it strives to fight against social evils affecting women and children in particular and society in general, and also to enhance the status of women and to empower them, as well as to fight against black-marketeering and corruption. Samiti thus strives to work for the implementation of the right to equality granted to women by the Constitution of India. It has 21 branches all over the country.

Aims and objectives

The goals for which the Society was established are:

(a) To inculcate the values of human rights, justice, democracy, socialism and secularism among women and make women conscious of their rights and responsibilities;

(b) To develop among women, particularly of the poorer classes, an awareness of their rights and to inculcate in them a spirit of self-reliance and independence;

(c) To uphold and safeguard the rights of women as guaranteed by the Constitution;

(d) To support, protect and uphold the status, interests, prestige and dignity of women;

(e) To work for:

(i) The implementation of the right to equality granted to women to enable them to participate fully and equally with men in every sphere of life;

(ii) Effective implementation of progressive social legislation and the introduction of such legislation whenever and wherever necessary;

(iii) Consumer education and protection;

(f) To disseminate knowledge gained by the Samiti through its experience and findings for the benefit of all sectors of society;

- (g) To carry out research into problems affecting various aspects of life, particularly of women and children;
- (h) To encourage the formation of branches of the Samiti throughout India;
- (i) To promote and make an effort to achieve equality, unity and cooperation among women of various classes and sectors of society;
- (j) To cooperate with an/or affiliate with and/or accept affiliation from other associations doing similar work in India or in other countries.

The Samiti shall strive to achieve these objectives through constructive activities but, if and when necessary, it shall not hesitate to achieve them through non-violent and peaceful struggle.

Since the previous report we have established nine branches in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and Rajasthan; we also have international branches in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Malaysia, Mauritius, Egypt, Turkey, Bahrain and Nepal. The membership varies from 30 to 300 in each of these countries.

The funds received are mostly from the Government of India and United Nations agencies. The international branches get their funding from contributions and donation by the members.

6. Word of Life Christian Fellowship

(Special consultative status granted in 1996)

Introductory statement

Word of Life Christian Fellowship (WOLCF), otherwise known as Word of Life Ministries International (WOLMI), is a non-governmental, non-profit organization established in 1985. The organization and its secretariat are headquartered in Kingston, Jamaica. The organization is ably assisted by affiliates throughout the wider Caribbean, Latin America, the United States and the United Kingdom, and received special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1996.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization is structured to facilitate a dynamic flow of information through networking with Governments and other groups, in an effort to facilitate partnerships for the exchange of skills, technology and financial assistance. The objective of the organization is to encourage development and growth; to be a voice in the global community for persons with respect to issues which affect their quality of life and their living conditions. Inter alia, WOLMI attempts to encourage inner-city outreach projects and to initiate projects related to skills training, academic training, nursery school development, sports, environmental protection and workshops for entrepreneurs utilizing the "mustard seed principle".

The programmes of WOLMI to date have been primarily centred around the mustard seed principle, which is a Biblical principle encouraging persons to begin

with the little resources they have in hand to achieve their visions. WOLMI has fine-tuned and further developed this principle with respect to its application to particular business projects. The mustard seed principle has been shared in the Caribbean region in countries such as Jamaica and Barbados. In 1999, the President General of WOLMI demonstrated the principle to over 5,000 religious leaders in Zimbabwe and to the African Business Fellowship, a large Christian network. During the last two years of the quadrennium, WOLMI has promoted the mustard seed principle in business seminars and meetings conducted in New York, Florida, Atlanta, Connecticut and Texas in the United States.

Local and regional initiatives/activities

During the earlier years of the quadrennium, the organization's emphasis was on cooperative efforts at both the local and regional levels, primarily establishing networks and areas of cooperation through liaising with the Government of Jamaica, as well as Governments of States within the region, namely Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Guyana and St. Lucia. Such efforts resulted in positive alliances for WOLMI at the local and regional levels. Amongst these, a member of the organization was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Correctional Services Production Company (COSPROD) in the Ministry of National Security and Justice of Jamaica. COSPROD provides gainful employment for persons who have been incarcerated, thereby assisting their rehabilitation.

At the regional level, discussions were held between two directors of WOLMI and our Special Envoy to the Eastern Caribbean in March of 1998. The objective was to assist members of the Christian business community. The talks led to an agreement for a consortium of business persons to visit Jamaica to hold further talks with the Government regarding the possibility of project/business opportunities in Jamaica.

Other regional activities:

In the region:

(a) WOLMI was represented as an observer to the twenty-seventh session of the United Nations Regional Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Aruba, May 1998);

(b) In October 1998, WOLMI's Director-General (Justice) and Special Envoy to Trinidad and Tobago attended a conference on criminology and criminal justice held in Barbados;

(c) The Secretary-General of WOLMI delivered the inaugural address to and assisted in writing the manifesto for ORDU, a newly formed political party in Curaçao in December 1998;

(d) The President-General also participated in a seminar with 1,000 community leaders and workers on poverty eradication and in meetings of the national cooperation agency in the Foreign Ministry of Brazil in June/July 1999.

International activities and activities relating to the United Nations

Internationally, WOLMI actively participated in the international policy framework of the United Nations as follows:

(a) Under the aegis of the United Nations, WOLMI was represented at a conference in Barbados relating to the concerns of youth and parents held in October 1998; discussions related to reproductive health rights of adolescents;

(b) In 1998, WOLMI was represented at the special session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development ("Cairo +5");

(c) In keeping with an interest in the applicability of the mustard seed principle to the theory and applicability of sustainable development, the President-General of WOLMI also participated in meetings of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in New York in 1998;

(d) The President-General also promoted United Nations Day 1999 in Southfield, Michigan, United States, and also received a proclamation from the mayor of Southfield, Donald F. Fracassi, on behalf of WOLMI and the United Nations, declaring 24 October as United Nations Day in Southfield;

(e) WOLMI also attended the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the special session of the General Assembly in 2001 for follow-up to the World Summit for Children held at United Nations Headquarters in May/June 2000;

(f) WOLMI was also represented at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", held at United Nations Headquarters from 5 to 9 June 2000.

7. Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action

(General consultative status granted in 1996)

Mission statement

The mission of Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) is to empower the oppressed and the marginalized by facilitating their organization and institutions to build equal partnerships in the development process, ensuring their human right to live in security, dignity and peace; to engage in critical partnership with the Government and forge alliances with other actors of civil society such as people's movements, trade unions, women's groups, academic institutions and the private sector to enable and strengthen peoples' empowerment processes.

Main activities

YUVA works with slum and pavement dwellers, street children and child labourers in programmes of housing and infrastructure development, running education programmes, night shelters, providing legal aid and doing other human development work. Besides public policy and education, influencing policy, building networks, support and consultancy work, solidarity action, and capacity-building of people's organizations and grass-roots groups are our priorities.

Affiliation with international NGOs

YUVA is a member of the board of the Housing and Land Rights Committee of Habitat International Coalition, a global organization promoting housing rights.

YUVA is a founding member of the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights based in Bangkok.

YUVA hosts the India programme of Focus on the Global South.

YUVA is part of the Human Rights Cities Network promoted by the People's Decade of Human Rights Education.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

YUVA was head of the NGO Caucus for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) held in Istanbul in 1995.

YUVA participated in the first session of the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in 2001 held in Nairobi in May 2000.

YUVA presented an alternate country report on the rights of the child in India to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva in 2000.

YUVA participated in the special session of the General Assembly to assess the achievements of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Geneva in 2000.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

YUVA has had no such cooperation.

Other relevant activities

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions and consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

YUVA works in collaboration with the UNICEF office in Mumbai, India, on child rights issues.

Preparation of papers and/or other material at the request of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, or of the United Nations Secretariat

YUVA is working on a paper entitled "Globalisation, displacement and the poor" for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities, including financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations, field-level collaboration, joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars, studies, etc.

YUVA has had field-level collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India in promoting the participatory resettlement of 1,250 families in Mumbai city whose community was demolished.
